# Staff Memorandum

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| To | Mayor A. Nuttall and Members of Council |
| Subject | Notice of Community Engagement - Downtown Waterfront Park Redevelopments |
| Date | April 15, 2026 |
| Ward | All |
| From | M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services |
| Executive Member Approval | M. Banfield, RPP, Executive Director of Development Services |
| CAO Approval | M. Prowse, Chief Administrative Officer |

The purpose of this memorandum is to advise Members of Council of the upcoming community engagement activities to support the redevelopment of two downtown waterfront parks: Heritage Park (Phase 1) and Sam Cancilla Park.

The joint redevelopment of the two adjacent parks allows for a more cost-effective and coordinated project delivery. With consideration of the adjacency of the two parks and that they share similar design objectives, completing the work as a single project ensures a unified waterfront identity through complementary design, enhanced community programming and events through co-location opportunities, and an overall improved visitor experience across both spaces.

The scope of work is in alignment with the Council approved Heritage Park Master Plan (2022) and Waterfront Strategic Plan (2023). The Heritage Park work is solely focused on the reconstruction of the water play feature and immediate area. The scope for the Sam Cancilla Park encompasses the full extent of the park including the adjacent portion of the North Shore Trail and is being coordinated with the Sam Cancilla Park Reservoir Decommissioning project led by the Infrastructure Department.

To enhance the overall Sam Cancilla Park redevelopment, the long-closed public washroom facility and the associated Kiwanis Pavilion are recommended for removal due to their poor physical condition, public safety concerns, and the need for improved public space. Staff met with the Kiwanis Club in January 2026 who expressed support for this approach with the understanding that the City will continue to recognize the Club's contributions through the park redevelopment. Staff remain committed to working closely with the Club and will be attending a Club meeting in May 2026 to discuss ideas to honour the Club and explore partnership opportunities in the redevelopment project.

Community engagement for this project will run from mid- to late April through mid- to late May. During this period, residents and visitors will be encouraged to visit the project webpage and complete an online survey on buildingbarrie.ca. The webpage will serve as the central hub for project information, including background materials, project objectives, engagement opportunities (such as informal pop-up events), updates, and the survey itself. Feedback collected through the survey will help shape the preferred design concepts for Heritage Park (Phase 1) and Sam Cancilla Park, ensuring the project reflects community needs, priorities, and aspirations.

## Appendix:

No appendices attached

## Memo Author:

K. Lilienthal, Supervisor of Landscape Architecture, Development Services

## File #:

FIN2025-018P

## Pending #:

Not Applicable